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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

**Senior Public Health
Inspector**

FOR THE YEAR 1959

**TAUNTON :
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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1959

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Taunton Isolation and Chest Hospital :*

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To :

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1959. The report contains the usual information on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district. This has again been divided into two sections, the first referring to the province of the Medical Officer of Health, and the second contributed by the Senior Public Health Inspector. The report, in the main, follows the same lines as that of the previous year, but certain fresh facts have been incorporated in the various sections.

Some features of the year under review are as follows :—

(1) The waiting list for Council Houses showed a substantial fall over the year, from 365 at the beginning to 280 at the end. It appears that the housing shortage is gradually disappearing. Some very good work was done by the Council in providing amenities in pre-war Council houses in order to bring these up to modern standards. 83 houses of this class were fitted out with hot water systems and 19 had water closets installed. An increasing number of older houses were being brought up to a good standard of health and hygiene by the application of Improvement Grants, as referred to in the body of the Report. Eight Council houses were connected to a public main water supply at Cheddon Fitzpaine.

(2) Work was begun during the year on the construction of a sewerage system for the parishes of Ruishton and Creech St. Michael. This will remove many nuisances and dangers to public health from these areas, and it is hoped that this scheme will be the fore-runner of similar ones in other parts of the District where conditions are bad.

(3) Infectious diseases had a comparatively light incidence in the district in 1959. It was not a measles year, and whooping cough notifications were at a very low level. No cases of poliomyelitis occurred. The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register had, for the first time fallen below 100. One of the most troublesome types of infection to emerge in recent years is that caused by staphylococci which have become insensitive to the common anti-

biotics. These cases are not notifiable, so that their prevalence is not accurately known. At present they cause much difficulty with cross-infection in hospitals, but it seems likely that they may soon spread widely in the community at large, and then notification may very well be made a requirement.

Once again I wish to thank the Members of the Council, the Clerk and Officials of other Departments, the Staff of the Public Health Department, and the Matron and Staff of the Isolation Hospital for their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH MORRISON.

TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

Statistics of the Area for the Year 1959

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	70,528
Estimate of resident population, mid-year 1959	...						20,800
Census population, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,516
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books on 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,121
Rateable value 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	£206,463
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, year 1959-60	...	...	...	...	...	...	£838 13 9

Physical Features and Social Conditions

Taunton Rural District lies in the south-western region of Somerset, surrounding Taunton Borough, the County Town. It is roughly triangular in shape, with Taunton Borough situated near the middle of the triangle. The boundary of the district is formed on the north by the Rural Districts of Williton and Bridgwater; on the east and south-east by the Rural Districts of Langport and Chard; on the south by the County of Devon; on the south-west and west by the Rural District of Wellington.

There is considerable variation in the type of country found in different parts of the district: in the north and north-west there is high ground forming portions of the Quantock and Brendon Hills; in the south the land rises to the hill parish of Churchstanton lying in the Blackdowns; between these regions lies the fertile valley of Taunton Deane, with the ground falling towards the east to the flat moors and marshy ground surrounding the lower reaches of Tone and Parret. Geologically also, the formations vary. In the north are found chiefly old and new red sandstone; in the south, lower lias and upper greensand; the valley regions have new red marl, new red sandstone and alluvium.

The climate is equable, with an average annual rainfall of 36.6 ins., and an average mean daily temperature of about 41° F. in January and 62° F. in July.

Rich arable and pasture land covers most of the district, but some of the hill regions are in the rough uncultivated state, and the soil on the Blackdown Hills tends to be poor in quality. In the eastern parishes the land is subject to seasonal flooding. Communications are good, and almost all parts of the district are easily accessible by road. Following the Tone valley through the middle of the district runs one of the main lines of the Western Region of British Railways and three branch lines leave it at or near Taunton to run to the north, south and west.

There are thirty-two parishes with estimated populations varying from 69 to 3,147. Habitations are widely scattered over these parishes, but there are several sizeable villages, the largest being Bishops Lydeard, Bishops Hull, Lydeard St. Lawrence, North Curry, Trull, Norton Fitzwarren and West Monkton.

Most of the inhabitants are engaged in some form of agriculture, dairy farming being particularly important. General farming is also largely practised, and allied activities are withy growing and basket-making, fruit farming and cider-making. There is a paper mill in the district which employs a fair number of people, and another source of employment for men is stone-quarrying which is carried out on a considerable scale. A factory producing meat products and a branch factory run by Taunton Shirt Manufacturers, are additional centres of employment in the district. Many of the residents in the rural district travel daily to Taunton to work in factories and other establishments.

There is one large institution in the district, namely Tone Vale Hospital in the parish of Bishops Lydeard, which, with its patients and resident staff, accounts for a population of about 1,200.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

With reference to the figures which follow, it should be pointed out that the standardisation of the rate for births and deaths allows for the differing age and sex distribution of the populations in different areas, and is obtained by multiplying the crude rate by a comparability factor for the district furnished by the Registrar General. This enables comparison to be made with the figures for the country as a whole, or with those for other districts.

1. Births.

(a) Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total	Crude birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population
Legitimate	147	138	285	
Illegitimate	6	5	11	
Totals	153	143	296	
				14.23

{ Standardised Birth Rate, Taunton R.D. ...	16.5
{ Birth Rate, England and Wales ...	16.5

(b) Still Births.

Total...	2
{ Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—	
Taunton R.D. ...	6.71
England and Wales ...	20.7
{ Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population—	
Taunton R. D. ...	0.96

2. Deaths.

(a) Total Deaths ...	306
Crude Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	14.71
{ Standardised Death Rate, Taunton R.D. ...	10.88
{ Death Rate for England and Wales ...	11.6

(b) Maternal Mortality.

Total maternal deaths from all causes ...	0
-------------------------------------------	---

(c) Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—

Total	...	...	...	...	8
Deaths among legitimate infants	...	...	...	...	7
„ illegitimate „	...	...	...	...	1
(Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—					
{	Taunton R.D.	26.85
	England and Wales	22.0

(d) Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—

Total	34
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Infant Mortality during 1959

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	1 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	2	—	—	—	2
Congenital Defect	—	—	1	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	1
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	3	—	3
Congenital Heart Disease	—	—	1	—	1
Total	3	—	5	—	8

Causes of Death during 1959

					M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	8	1	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	13	13	26
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	17	25	42
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	17	17	34
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	17	25	42
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	3	6	9
Influenza	...	...	...	...	8	5	13
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	12	13	25
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	23	24	47
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
All Causes—Total					153	153	306

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Domiciliary Services

(1) Medical and Nursing

There are six general medical practitioners living and carrying on the main part of their practice in different areas of the district. In addition to this, most of the Taunton Borough practitioners have some rural district residents on their lists, and there is also, as would be expected, some overlap from the surrounding rural districts in the provision of medical attention. There are adequate arrangements for domiciliary consultation, when required, with consultants serving the Taunton area, and speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are also satisfactory.

(2) Home Help Service

This service, administered by the Somerset County Council, is now well established in the district, and invaluable assistance is given in many cases of illness and the domestic difficulties arising therefrom. There is no doubt that this is one of the most useful of all public services. I am indebted to the County Organiser for the following analysis of cases where help was arranged in Taunton Rural District during 1959 :

Maternity	...	...	...	...	32
Old age	...	...	...	...	32
Chronic illness	...	...	...	...	12
Mental Health	...	...	...	...	1
Emergency illness	...	...	...	...	12
Post Operation	...	...	...	...	4
Total					93

Hospital Services

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patient are detailed below :—

(1) General Medical and Surgical

The Taunton and Somerset Hospital together with Musgrove Park Hospital which is also situated in the Borough of Taunton, and which is probably eventually destined to supersede the first-named establishment, cater for most medical and surgical conditions. Musgrove Park Hospital takes most of the adult cases, and also has a comprehensive Pædiatric Department. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital is in the meantime dealing with Orthopædics and Ophthalmology. It also houses the Casualty Department for the area. Both hospitals have out-patient facilities in addition to in-patient beds. Certain cases requiring special investigation or treatment such as neurosurgery or radiotherapy are referred to Bristol Hospitals for this purpose.

(2) Infectious Diseases

Cases of infectious disease from Taunton Rural District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in individual rooms and cubicles. Home isolation is carried out wherever the home conditions are satisfactory.

(3) Tuberculosis

Cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physicians for the area. The Sanatoria are at Quantock, Wincanton and Taunton for pulmonary cases. Cases requiring orthopædic treatment are admitted to Bath Orthopædic Hospital.

(4) Poliomyelitis

Suspected cases are sent for diagnosis to the Taunton Isolation Hospital. If the condition is confirmed they are seen by Regional Specialists who arrange for continuation treatment either as out-patients or as in-patients at Bath Orthopædic Hospital.

(5) Chronic Sick

Patients are received into hospitals, chiefly those in Taunton and Wellington, which have now passed from Public Assistance administration to that of the Regional Hospital Board. The status and reputation of these institutions is improving, more or less rapidly, as their association with the less desirable features of the old Poor Law fades from public memory. The geriatric service for this area of West Somerset is being put on a much more satisfactory basis, following on the appointment, early in the year, of a Medical Consultant with special responsibilities in this field of work.

Powers now exist under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47, for the compulsory removal to a suitable institution of persons who are not able to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other people, proper care and attention. There are adequate safeguards against misuse of these powers, but cases do crop up from time to time when they are very useful and in the true interest of the person concerned. The onus is thrown upon the Medical Officer of Health to investigate these cases and to advise on whether these powers ought to be invoked. Once again the procedure was not required during the year, but a number of cases were kept under review.

(6) Mentally Sick.

Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patients' clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients are having the benefit of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of the disease.

Mentally defective cases are well provided for at Sandhill Park Hospital which is situated in Taunton Rural District.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

(1) Tuberculosis

Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts, are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the County population, by a team working from a centre in Bristol, but this service has not been called upon to deal with residents in Taunton Rural District.

(2) Venereal Disease

A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. This centre has now come under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board. Early cases of syphilis are usually sent to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, for a fortnight's intensive penicillin treatment as in-patients. Afterwards they continue observation and treatment at the Taunton Clinic.

(3) Maternity and Child Welfare

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington at which some of the mothers from Taunton Rural District are confined. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton which undertakes the bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, faeces and sputum, etc. This service is available also to the Doctors practising in the District. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods,

water supplies and sewage effluents, etc. The co-operation and assistance of the Public Health Laboratory Staff in investigating all types of bacteriological and epidemiological problems is of the greatest value.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance transport for all cases has now become the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. A central ambulance department has been set up which arranges for vehicles to be provided as required. A twenty-four hour service is maintained throughout each day of the week.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Acute Infectious Diseases

The following table gives the number of notifications received for various notifiable diseases, their age groups, and the number admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital:—

Diseases	No. of Notifications.	AGE GROUPS.								No. admitted to Isolation Hospital.
		1st year of life.	1-2 incl.	3-4 incl.	5-9 incl.	10-14 incl.	15-24 incl.	25 & over	Age unknown	
Scarlet Fever ...	5	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Measles ...	65	2	9	11	30	12	1	—	—	—
Whooping cough ...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	1

The following table shows notification rates of the above diseases for Taunton Rural District compared with the same rates in the previous year. In each instance these rates are calculated as numbers of notified cases per 1,000 of population, except with Puerperal Pyrexia in which the rate is furnished by the number of cases per 1,000 total live and still births:—

Diseases.	No. of Notifications in Taunton Rural District.	Rates for Taunton R.D.	
		1959	1958
Scarlet Fever	5	0.24	0.50
Dysentery	2	0.09	0.05
Measles	65	3.12	13.77
Whooping Cough	2	0.09	0.37
Pneumonia	1	0.04	0.14
Erysipelas	5	0.24	0.46

Tuberculosis

The following table gives the number of new cases of respiratory and non-respiratory Tuberculosis notified during 1959 and mortality from the disease:—

New Cases and Mortality during 1959

Ages in Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp'tory		Non-Resp.		Resp'tory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
45 — 55	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 and up... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10		1		1		2	

At the end of the year, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names and addresses of 89 cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis and 15 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Prophylaxis

No cases of Diphtheria have occurred in the district for nineteen years. The immunisation campaign against this disease has been an outstanding success in this district, and in the country as a whole; but it remains essential that all young children should be given the benefit of this protection.

It is customary in the county of Somerset to combine immunisation against whooping cough with the course used to protect against diphtheria, and this is also a most valuable public health measure, since whooping cough is now probably the most serious of the common infectious diseases affecting young children.

The following table indicates the number of children who completed a full course of diphtheria immunisation during the year 1959.

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total
131	43	7	2	1	5	1	190

Poliomyelitis Prophylaxis

During the year 1959 immunisation against poliomyelitis was given to a large number of children, and this campaign continues steadily. This method of protection involves two small injections given at about a month’s interval followed by a third boosting injection seven months afterwards. A total of 2,255 children from the Rural District had been, or were in process of being, immunised in this way by the end of the year. Immunisation was also offered during this year to young persons aged 15-25 years, and the response to this was fairly good although it was felt that many of this age group were apparently indifferent to the appeals which were made. Most of these young people were treated by their own doctors, but some of these were immunised at public clinic sessions.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Of the 6,121 houses in the district, it is estimated that 4,617 are connected with a public piped water supply.

Public water undertakings owned by the Council are six in number, viz:—

1.	Eastern Parishes (formerly Portman)					} Treated by chlorina- tion
2.	Churchstanton	...	...	...	...
3.	Cothelstone	...	...	...	...
4.	Thurlbear	...	...	...	...
5.	West Bagborough	} Unchlor- inated
6.	Westleigh, Lydeard St. Lawrence	...	...	...	...

Chemical and bacteriological sampling of public water supplies is done periodically throughout the year. No plumbo-solvent action exists in any of the water supplies in the district.

In addition to the supplies owned by the Taunton Rural District Council there is an extensive portion of the district served by the Taunton Corporation Water Undertaking. The following parishes are supplied as a whole or in part from this source:—Bishops Hull, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Corfe, Creech St. Michael, Norton Fitzwarren, Orchard Portman, Pitminster, Ruishton, Staple-grove, Stoke St. Mary, Thornfalcon, Trull and West Monkton. This water is regularly tested and kept under supervision by the Taunton Borough authorities, and has maintained a consistently excellent standard.

The remainder of the district is supplied chiefly from wells, most of them coming into the shallow category, and thus being very liable to pollution. Cleaning of contaminated wells followed by chlorination sometimes results in a pure supply for a period of time, but the trouble is always likely to recur, and the wells can never be relied upon to provide a constant wholesome supply. Often boiling of water before use has to be advised, and the problem will not be satisfactorily solved until piped water is taken to the properties concerned.

The dry summer of 1959 led to severe shortages of water in some parts of the district.

Work at Clatworthy Reservoir was nearing completion, and it seemed likely that water from this source would be available for the district in 1960.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Of the 32 parishes in the District, only seven have sewage disposal works, and of these works, perhaps three may be regarded as meeting disposal requirements satisfactorily, namely those in the parishes of Bishops Lydeard, Bishops Hull and Norton Fitzwarren, while the remaining four at Combe Florey, Hatch Beauchamp, North Curry and Corfe are inadequate for their purpose.

Work began during the year on a sewerage scheme to provide for the needs of Ruishton and Creech St. Michael.

The provision of public sewerage schemes in various areas of the district which are at present without this amenity was a much more definite prospect at the end of the year. The advantages of these schemes as compared with individual septic tanks and similar methods of disposal were considered in detail in previous reports, and it is unnecessary at this stage to repeat these points.

Housing

Provision of houses in the District by the Council has gone on steadily throughout the year. 32 were completed in 1959 and since the end of the war 727 have been built. In addition to this, about 571 houses have been built by private enterprise during the same period. This building activity has had some effect on the waiting list of families requiring accommodation, but continued efforts in this direction will be required for some time to come. There were about 280 applicants for Council houses on the waiting list at the end of 1959.

The following table refers to properties dealt with under slum clearance procedure :

Action	No. of Houses
1. Acquired by Council for demolition (site to be used for erecting new houses)	6
2. Demolition Order made ...	28
3. Undertaking given not to use for human habitation	48
4. Houses actually demolished ...	18
5. Clearance Area Procedure carried out	5 (in one terraced block)
6. Closing Order	3

The year showed very gratifying progress in the field of Improvement Grants. In July, 1959, these grants were divided into two categories; Discretionary Grants, which were to be made on the same basis as all improvement grants previously given, and Standard Grants which were to be made for the purpose of providing properties with amenities when these were lacking. The amenities concerned were a bath or shower in a bathroom, a wash-hand basin, a water closet, a hot water supply and a food store. These might all be the subject of grant in any given property, or only some of them might be applied for, provided that the house was already supplied with the others. During the year, 33 Discretionary Grants and 17 Standard Grants were made, bringing the total of Improvement Grants for the District up to the end of 1959 to 193.

Many families in the district, some of them perhaps from choice, but more of them probably from necessity, make use of caravans as permanent dwellings. It cannot be felt that this is the most desirable way of life, more especially when children form part of the family. During 1959, licences were issued in respect of 23 moveable dwellings, most of them for individual caravans, but some for sites capable of accommodating several. It was estimated that 247 caravans were in use with a total population of about 500.

The Council's building programme was as follows:—

Parish.				Number completed	Number under construction at
				during 1959	31st Dec., 1959
Norton Fitzwarren	...	...	...	—	3
Bishops Lydeard	...	...	...	4	—
Bishops Hull	...	...	...	—	6
West Monkton	...	...	...	24	—
Ruishton	...	...	...	4	—
				<u>32</u>	<u>9</u>

The following table shows the number of houses owned by the Council :—

Parish				Number of houses		
Bishops Hull	...	...	...	...	...	132
Bishops Lydeard	...	...	...	...	...	231
Cheddon Fitzpaine	...	...	...	...	...	18
Churchstanton	...	...	...	...	...	24
Combe Florey	...	...	...	...	...	4
Corfe	...	...	...	...	...	8
Creech St. Michael	...	...	...	...	...	49
Curland	...	...	...	...	...	4
Hatch Beauchamp	...	...	...	...	...	23
Kingston St. Mary	...	...	...	...	...	36
Lydeard St. Lawrence	...	...	...	...	...	28
North Curry	...	...	...	...	...	63
Norton Fitzwarren	...	...	...	...	...	164
Otterford	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pitminster	...	...	...	...	...	40
Ruishton	...	...	...	...	...	56
Staplegrove	...	...	...	...	...	6
Stoke St. Gregory	...	...	...	...	...	50
Stoke St. Mary	...	...	...	...	...	12
Thornfalcon	...	...	...	...	...	8
Trull	...	...	...	...	...	14
West Bagborough	...	...	...	...	...	34
West Hatch	...	...	...	...	...	4
West Monkton	...	...	...	...	...	113
				Total		<u>1,125</u>

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a tabular statement of work carried out during the year 1959 :—

Number and nature of inspections:—

Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	130
Food premises	...	...	...	...	...	10
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	2,345
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	30
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	72
Drainage, foul ditches, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	11
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	71
Refuse and salvage collection and disposal	...	...	...	...	...	150
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	93

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Work has continued during the year on the inspection and supervision of food premises in the area. It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings in any cases for breach of the regulations.

Water Samples

70 samples of water have been obtained for bacteriological examination during the year. Of this number 64 have been taken from private supplies, and reported on as follows:—

Grade 1.	17 samples.
2.	4 „
3.	2 „
4.	41 „
	<hr/>
	64
	<hr/>

Advice on improving existing supplies and warnings against drinking water without boiling have been issued in all appropriate cases.

6 samples of water have been obtained from the various public supplies in the area, for bacteriological examination during the year.

Six chemical samples have been taken and all were satisfactory.

Bakehouses

There are 3 bakehouses in the district.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1950

The number of persons registered with the Council as distributors of milk in the area is 10.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulation, 1949 to 1953

Eight dealer's licences are in force under the above Regulation, plus eleven dealer's supplementary licences.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulation, 1949 to 1954

Nine dealer's licences are in force under the above Regulation, plus seven dealer's supplementary licences.

Ice Cream

The number of retailers of this product in the area is 62. They sell pre-packed ice cream, which is stored in properly constructed refrigerators.

Rodent Control

An operator is employed jointly with Wellington R.D.C. During the year the sewers, sewage disposal works and refuse tips were inspected and treated systematically. Private dwelling houses and business premises have been surveyed and treated both from complaints made and infestations discovered during surveys. Summary of inspection and control measures taken are as follows—

Report for 12 months ending 31st December, 1959

	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agricul- tural
	(1) Local Autho- rity	(2) Dwell- ing Houses	(3) All others (includ- ing Business Premises)	(4) Totals 1, 2 & 3	
I. Number of Properties in Local Authority's District	17	6,407	392	6,816	558
II. Number of Properties in- spected as a result of					
(a) Notification ...	—	112	13	125	12
(b) Surveys ...	17	282	52	351	58
(c) Otherwise ...	—	69	60	129	25
III. Total Inspections carried out — including re-inspec- tions ...	85	659	89	833	76
IV. Number of Properties in- spected which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats { Major	2	4	2	8	5
Minor	10	135	22	167	25
(b) Mice { Major	—	1	—	1	—
Minor	—	23	3	26	—
V. Number of Infested Prop- erties treated by the L.A.	12	163	12	187	8
VI. Total Treatments carried out including re-treatments	22	168	12	202	8
VII. Number of Notices served under Section 4 of the Act.					
(a) Treatment ...	—	—	1	1	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	1	1	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a Notice under Section 4 of the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block Con- trol" schemes carried out	—	4	—	—	—

Meat Inspection
Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1,522	593	18,218	73,273	49,560	0
Number inspected ...	1,522	593	18,216	72,972	49,560	0
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	0	5	7	57	39	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	31	39	10	1,062	793	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci	2.36	7.41	0.09	1.51	0.10	0
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses condemned	0	1	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	2	0	0	737	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.06	0.53	0	0	1.49	0
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	3	0	0	0	0
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	1	3	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned	0	1	0	0	0	0

Refuse Collection and Disposal

No changes have been made in this service during the year. All parishes have a fortnightly collection with the exception of Bishops Hull and Bishops Lydeard which have a weekly service.

Salvage Collection and Sales

The following items of salvage were disposed of during the year :

Material.	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Newsprint	68	0	2	0	186	7	0
Cardboard	18	16	3	11	76	6	2
Rags	3	11	0	0	42	12	0
Wool		6	3	26	20	12	8
Mixed iron	11	6	2	21	62	19	7
Bottles			111 doz.		7	14	8
Non-ferrous Metals		18	0	0	47	17	0
Battery Lead		2	3	0	3	13	3
Bed Irons			12 only			12	0
Bicycle frames			8 only		1	0	0
Pipe Lead		2	2	3	6	2	11
Jam Jars			94 doz.		2	7	0
Books		8	0	0	1	0	0
Paper Meal Sacks	2	10	0	0	12	10	0
	106	3	1	5	471	14	3

Factories Act, 1937

The inspection of factories and workshops in the district from a public health point of view is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department. Routine visits are paid to the various premises and the following table gives particulars of this work.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) :—

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspection.	Written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	3	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies	87	27	0	0
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	0	0	0
Total ...	101	30	0	0

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 50—Burial of the Dead

One notification was received during the year that a person in the area had died and that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body had been made. The burial was accordingly arranged by the Council.

